

# Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

*Excellence and Equity For All Children*

**MATTHEW T. D'ANDREA, LP.D.**  
SUPERINTENDENT

**RICHARD M. SMITH, ED.D.**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

**MARK A. FRIEDMAN**  
INTERIM SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

**HOPE T. MACLEOD, M.ED., BCBA**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES  
(SECONDARY)

**NANCY W. DUGAN, M.ED., BCBA**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES  
(ELEMENTARY)

**RUDA STONE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools is dedicated to providing engaging and effective remote learning opportunities for our students. As you know, our school district has presently closed its physical school building due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period of school closure, MVPS will be providing students with remote learning, which may include analog materials, telephone calls, video conferencing, pre-recorded lessons, and other online services.

In order to keep our students and staff safe during video conferencing, I would like to take a moment to clarify expectations around appropriate use of virtual technologies for educational opportunities.

- 1) MVPS strictly prohibits screenshots, pictures, audio/video recordings, and distribution/posting of any virtual educational experience in order to protect student privacy, proactively prevent potential cyberbullying, prevent the distribution of copyrighted materials, and comply with Massachusetts law. Please note that in Massachusetts, it is a crime to record another person through any medium without their knowledge.
- 2) Students, and where appropriate parents/guardians, agree to engage in virtual educational experiences in a quiet, private area to the extent practicable given the circumstances, in order to minimize background noise and distractions and to protect the integrity of student engagement as well as student confidentiality.
- 3) Parents/guardians and other household members who normally are not privy to day-to-day classroom and group service discussions agree to respect and keep confidential any personal or private information (e.g., disability status) inadvertently discovered about other students due to proximity to virtual education. Parents/guardians who are normally not participants in classroom activities should refrain from any virtual participation in classroom activities.
- 4) The same rules of conduct and behavior will apply as in the classroom. MVPS will continue to utilize its [Acceptable Use Policy](#), as outlined in the student handbook, to this remote learning. Students are expected to behave in accordance with our code of conduct while participating in remote instruction. Cyber-bullying, harassment, discrimination, and abuse of the remote learning process will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from remote learning, as well as additional consequences when school resumes.
- 5) The District has in good faith attempted to ensure that audio and video conferencing platforms that are compliant with FERPA, CIPA, COPPA and all other applicable federal and state laws. The District will take all reasonable measures to preserve your privacy and the privacy of the student, and each of our educators will continue to maintain the privacy of student record information. Parents/guardians waive any and all claims against the District related to the use of these third-party vendors to provide audio and/or video conferencing services.

We appreciate your support during this challenging time and we are working very hard to keep our students engaged and supported. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.